

Appln No. 10/760232
Amdt. Dated: November 14, 2006
Response to Office Action of September 19, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's final Office Action of September 19, 2006 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that the casing which mounts the printhead module and drive electronics of the printhead assembly, itself is configured to removably mount the printhead assembly to a printer unit. Support for this amendment can be found at page 6, lines 9-22 of the present specification; and dependent claims 2-8 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application, nor any new issues to the prosecution of the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

(It is noted that the Detailed Action section of the current final Office Action indicates that pending claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over previously cited Silverbrook in view of newly cited Lee (US 6,069,710). As two cited references are being combined to purportedly teach the subject matter of the pending claims, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection should properly be under 35 USC 103(a).)

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-8 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by Silverbrook in view of Lee, for at least the following reasons.

As discussed above, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the claimed controllers are an integral part of the printhead assembly since they are mounted to the casing of the assembly, which is in turn mounted to a printer unit (see page 6, lines 9-22 of the present specification).

The Examiner has newly cited Lee as disclosing "controllers for processing print data and controlling printing via the electrical connector (circuit) to print processed print data", which the Examiner asserts one of ordinary skill in the art would have incorporated into the printhead assembly disclosed by Silverbrook.

It is respectfully submitted however that any combination of Silverbrook and Lee would only result in the printhead modules of Silverbrook being connected to the "controllers" of Lee via the PCB 54 of Silverbrook, not in the incorporation of such controllers into the printhead assembly of Silverbrook, as is required by amended independent claim 1.

This is because, Lee merely discloses an ink-jet printer having print heads and circuits for controlling the print heads, where a printer controller 12, a print data control logic circuit 20 and associated circuitry of the control circuit are merely connected to a printer head 22 (see col. 3, line 38-col. 4, line 11 of Lee).

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Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion in Lee that the "controllers" are part of the printer head itself, which is in turn part of the ink-jet printer. Rather, the "controllers" of Lee merely constitute the non-disclosed controllers of Silverbrook to which data connections are made through the PCB 54 and data connector 66 (see col. 4, lines 16-18, col. 6, lines 41-46 and col. 7, lines 16-20 of Silverbrook).

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-8 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by Silverbrook and Lee either taken alone or in combination with one another.

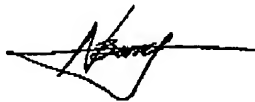
It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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